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Security Information

9 January 1953

SURVEY OF COLLECTION FROM OVERT SOURCES ABROAD

By memorandum of 24 September 1952, the DD/I requested OIC to survey present arrangements and responsibilities for collection of intelligence information from overt sources abroad and to determine the need for further supplementation, stimulation, or coordination.

In the course of a series of meetings with representatives of the various offices of the Agency, it became obvious that the problem of collection from overt sources abroad is best approached by attacking the several identifiable major aspects of such collection, namely:

1. Scientific
2. Publications Procurement and Microfilming
3. Map Procurement
4. Economic and Political
5. Military

1. Scientific: As a separate project, but directly related to this subject, a review of scientific collection has been made and a report submitted.

2. Publications Procurement:

a. Improvements in the administration of the State Department program (apart from direct CIA assistance in the field as mentioned below) can be obtained through:

(1) Present examination by OIC and IAD, State, of ways to improve the administration of this program by State, and of CIA-State relations. This includes a CIA review

(a) of drafts of proposed Foreign Service Manual instructions;

(b) of present funds and possible increases;

(c) of the State Department T/O (both in Washington and in the field); and

(d) of methods of training and inspecting personnel.

(2) Coordination of publication procurement, as outlined in the proposed NSCID 16 and its advisory committee. This NSCID is now being considered by IAC representatives for IAC consideration.

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b. Microfilming: Direct CIA assistance in the field can be provided by establishment of a permanent roving CIA Publications Procurement and microfilm team in Europe integrated with the Foreign Service; a memorandum on this subject for ~~DOE~~ approval is in preparation now.

3. Map: ORR is developing a project for the improvement of map procurement for fiscal '53 and '54.

4. Improvement with respect to economic and political reporting is being sought through:

a. ORR and EIC guidance on the State Department's coordinated economic reporting program and the arrangements for evaluation; and

b. OCI's improving working relationships with the State Department in the development of political reporting guides and peripheral reporting guides; in regard to the latter, a State field survey conducted in the summer of 1952 is under current review in OCI and ORR.

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5. Military: Nothing concrete has been developed on this as yet.

(N.B. In the course of this survey, and as proposed in the OO Staff Study, there has also been a discussion of the facilities for utilization of intelligence materials which become available. This is treated in a separate report entitled, "Utilization of Foreign Intelligence Materials.")